With the many changes headed our way in 2021, I’m excited to announce that the Maine DOE has integrated its supports for world languages and English for speakers of other languages (ESOL) into one position. I am honored to take on this critical new role! This change will enable greater collaboration as we work toward our shared objective: high-quality language learning opportunities for all Maine students.

My background includes a B.A. in French/German, an M.A. in TESOL, and many years of teaching and training teachers, so this new position is truly a dream job for me, bringing together everything I am passionate about. I look forward to serving you, and I welcome your emails and phone calls. If there’s ever anything I can do to support your work, I’m here for you!

Moving forward, you will be receiving this blended weekly newsletter for all language educators. If there are events, professional learning opportunities, jobs, or other information you would like shared with your colleagues, please email me.

Wishing you all a fantastic new year!

April Perkins
april.perkins@maine.gov  Cell: (207)441-9043

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**Professional Learning**

- Maine DOE ESOL Professional Learning Calendar
- Vista Higher Learning Recorded World Language Webinar Library
- Starting 2/9/21 Maine State Teacher of the Year Association: Free Workshop Series—Anti-racist Education for all of Maine
  - 1/12/21 at 7-8:30pm ET: California DOE -Understanding and Countering Islamophobia
  - 1/13/21 at 4pm: FLAME Webinar—Jamboards in a Pear Tree
  - Alliance Française French Classes Starting in January
  - 1/16/21 12:30-3:00pm Maine AATG: Germania and Popular Music—Diversity, Equity, and BLM in the German Curriculum
  - 1/21/21 at 6:00pm ET: WestEd/NM DOE—Integrating ELD in Secondary Science
  - Save the Date! 3/12/21-3/13/21 FLAME Conference (Virtual) — Call for Proposals Now Open (Due by 1/15/21)
  - Save the Date! 5/7/21 (Time TBD): Maine ESOL Meeting (Virtual)
  - 7/25/21-7/31/21: Deutsche Woche in Bar Harbor
ACCESS for ELLs window runs from 1/11/21-4/16/21

Updates to the Special Considerations Module

In the event a student is unable to participate in statewide assessments due to a medical emergency, the district must submit a request to Maine DOE via the special considerations module in NEO.

For this year, Maine DOE has extended the module to include considerations related to the COVID-19 pandemic. These considerations pertain to those students who are remote learners due to the pandemic and cannot participate in onsite assessment.

The Maine DOE Assessment Team is offering a live webinar on January 21st @ 2pm which will include an overview of the updated special considerations module and provide participants the opportunity to ask questions.

Register for the webinar here

Important Quick Facts about ACCESS:

√ It is not possible to participate in ACCESS remotely.
√ Paper tests are only given as an IEP accommodation or for alternate and kindergarten assessments.
√ The decision to have a student participate in the Alternate ACCESS is made by the IEP Team using state guidance resources for alternate assessment participation.

DRC can be reached at: wida@datarecognitioncorp.com and (855) 787-9615, 8:00am-7:00pm, Monday through Friday.

Technology troubleshooting
Materials ordering
WIDA AMS questions

ACCESS for ELLs

Questions? Assessment support needed?

Jodi Bossio-Smith, State Coordinator for Alternate and WIDA Assessments
jodi.bossio-smith@maine.gov
207.530.1462

If you have not already, please review WIDA’s newly released resource:

Assessment Best Practices during COVID-19

Reminders:

√ Plan and set up test sessions in WIDA AMS
√ Share technology updates/criteria with your tech coordinator
√ Confer with special education directors/case managers to confirm assessment accommodations for English learners with IEPs
√ ACCESS accommodations available for both paper and online assessments can be found in the WIDA Resource Library.

DRC can be reached at: wida@datarecognitioncorp.com and (855) 787-9615, 8:00am-7:00pm, Monday through Friday.

Technology troubleshooting
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WIDA AMS questions

Articles of Interest

Maine DOE Newsroom: Joint Statement of Commitment and Support for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in Maine Schools

Lincoln F. Ladd Awarded Wayne Cane by Selectboard

Pandemic leads school districts to consider skipping test for English language learners

Language Policy: Congress Funds $15M for New World Languages Program

Scientific American: Brain Sides Both Busy in New Language Learning

NPR: Biden Picks Connecticut Schools Chief Miguel Cardona as Education Secretary

Forbes: If You Want Black Students To Do Well At School, It Helps If You’re Positive About Black Students

New York Times: With Remote Learning, a 12-Year-Old Knows Her English Is Slipping Away

LA Times: Opinion—The importance of achieving fluency in another language
Job Opportunities

Sebago Elementary Part-Time ESOL Teacher

Catholic Charities: TANF WF Project Coordination Specialist (Augusta)

Catholic Charities: TANF WF Project Coordination Specialist (Biddeford)

Cultural Alliance of Maine Pilot Project Director

RSU 38 High School German Teacher (Anticipated)

Saco Long-Term Substitute ESL Teacher Grades 3-5

LearningWorks English Language and Literacy Program Director

Portland Adult Education ELL Teacher (half-time, one year only)

Seal of Biliteracy

The Maine Seal of Biliteracy application has been updated with the following changes:

- All applications will be submitted through the online form. Paper applications are no longer accepted.
- Applications must be complete upon submission. The separate evidence upload form will no longer be available.

If you have any questions or would like assistance navigating the process, please contact me at april.perkins@maine.gov or 441-9043. Best of luck to you and your students!

COVID-19 Supports

Multilingual Flyers

Exposure to COVID-19


Positive COVID Test

Virtual Office Hours

ESOL

Our next virtual office hour will be on 1/13/21 at 3:00pm. Jodi will be with us to answer all of your ACCESS/Alternate ACCESS questions and support you as we enter this year’s assessment window.

Join Zoom here.

Meeting ID: 839 6220 3107
Passcode: ?2j?TtAe

Recordings will be available on the Maine DOE YouTube channel after each session.

View the 1/6/21 ESOL Office Hour

World Languages

As I begin my new role supporting World Language educators, I would like to invite you to an informal “meet and greet.” This will be an opportunity for you to connect, get to know each other, and talk about your work and how I might best support you. I look forward to seeing you there!

Join Zoom here.

Meeting ID: 835 1618 2826
Passcode: OcM?nY9w

View the 1/6/21 World Language Office Hour